We claim:

1. A frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor, the frame comprising two spaced arms made of a material of a predetermined thickness and each arm having a cutout therein receiving a lockbar, where each cutout has an edge comprising a land portion for supporting the lockbar, which land portion is of a reduced thickness compared to the predetermined thickness of the arms to present a reduced surface area to the lockbar.

2. The frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor according to Claim 1 wherein the edges of the cutouts in the arms of the seat belt retractor frame further comprise a second section which tapers away from the land portion and from the cutout.

3. The frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor according to Claim 2 wherein the second section steps away from the land portion and from the cutout.

4. The frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor according to Claim 1 wherein the frame comprises pressed steel.

5. The frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor according to Claim 2 wherein the frame comprises pressed steel.

6. The frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor according to Claim 3 wherein the frame comprises pressed steel.

7. The frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor according to Claim 4 assembled with a lockbar formed from die-cast non-ferrous material.

8. The frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor according to Claim 5 assembled with a lockbar formed from die-cast non-ferrous material.

9. The frame for a vehicle seat belt retractor according to Claim 6 assembled with a lockbar formed from die-cast non-ferrous material.

10. An assembly of a seat belt retractor frame and a lockbar, the seat belt retractor frame comprising two spaced arms made of a material of a predetermined thickness and each arm having a cutout therein receiving a lockbar, where each cutout has an edge comprising a land portion for supporting the lockbar, which land portion is of a reduced thickness compared to the predetermined thickness of the arms to present a reduced surface area to the lockbar; and the lockbar is disposed adjacent to the land portions of the edges of the cutouts in the arms of the seat belt retractor frame and comprising a rod having located at each end thereof a locking pawl with locking teeth, the lockbar being pivotable in the cutouts in the arms of the seat belt retractor frame.

11 The assembly of a seat belt retractor frame and a lockbar according to Claim 10 wherein the edges of the cutouts in the arms of the seat belt retractor frame further comprise a second section which tapers away from the land portion and from the lockbar.

12. The assembly of a seat belt retractor frame and a lockbar according to Claim 11 wherein the second section steps away from the land portion and from the cutout.

13. The assembly of a seat belt retractor frame and a lockbar according to Claim 10 wherein the frame comprises pressed steel and the lockbar comprises a die-cast non-ferrous material.

14. The assembly of a seat belt retractor frame and a lockbar according to Claim 11 wherein the frame comprises pressed steel and the lockbar comprises a die-cast non-ferrous material.

15. The assembly of a seat belt retractor frame and a lockbar according to Claim 12 wherein the frame comprises pressed steel and the lockbar comprises a die-cast non-ferrous material.

16. An assembly of a seat belt retractor frame and a lockbar, the seat belt retractor frame comprising two spaced arms made of pressed steel of a predetermined thickness and each arm having a cutout therein receiving a lockbar, where each cutout has an edge comprising a land portion for supporting the lockbar, which land portion is of a reduced thickness compared to the predetermined thickness of the arms to present a reduced surface area to the lockbar; and the lockbar comprising a die-cast non-ferrous material is disposed adjacent to the land portions of the edges of the cutouts in the arms of the seat belt retractor frame and comprising a rod having located at each end thereof a locking pawl with locking teeth, the lockbar being pivotable in the cutouts in the arms of the seat belt retractor frame, each land portion of the edges of the cutouts presenting a relatively sharp edge such that as a load on the seat belt retractor frame increases during a crash of a vehicle the lands will penetrate the rod of the lockbar.

17 The assembly of a seat belt retractor frame and a lockbar according to Claim 16 wherein the relatively sharp edges presented by the land portions of the edges of the cutouts in the arms of the seat belt retractor are made sharp by a second section which tapers away from the land portion and from the lockbar.